

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 8 is requested to be cancelled. Claim 1 is currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 8 and 12. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the recitations of canceled claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, and claims 2-7 and 9-13 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-6, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Abens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,585,708), claims 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abens in view of Okamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,045,933), and claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abens in view of Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,747,185). These rejections are moot in view of the amendment to claim 1 incorporating the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 8.

Applicants submit that entry of this Amendment after final is proper because claim 1, the only independent claim, has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8, thus placing all of the pending claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the entry of this Amendment, the allowance of the pending claims, and the passage of this application to issue.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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